Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a positive active material for a rechargeable lithium battery, the positive active material including at least one selected from the group consisting of formulas 1 to 4 and being coated with metal oxide or composite metal oxide, comprising the steps of:

preparing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of formulas 1 to 4;

$Li_xNi_{1-y}Mn_yF_2$ (1)

$Li_xNi_{1-y}Mn_yS_2$ (2)

$Li_xNi_{1-y-z}Mn_yM_zO_{2-a}F_a$ (3)

$Li_xNi_{1-y-z}Mn_yM_zO_{2-a}S_a$ (4)

where M is selected from the group consisting of Co, Mg, Fe, Sr, Ti, B, Si, Ga, Al, Sc, Y, La, Ce, Pr, Nd, Pm, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Lu, Ac, Th, Pa, U, Np, Pu, Am, Cm, Bk, Cf, Es, Fm, Md, No and Lr, and $0.95 \leq x \leq 1.1$, $0 < y \leq 0.99$, $0 \leq z \leq 0.5$, and ~~$0 \leq a \leq 0.5$~~ $0 < a \leq 0.5$;

coating the compound with a metal alkoxide solution, an organic solution of metal salt or an aqueous solution of metal salt; and

heat-treating the coated compound.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the compound selected from the group consisting of formulas 1 to 4 is prepared by co-precipitating nickel salt and manganese salt to prepare a nickel manganese salt;

mixing the resultant nickel manganese salt with a lithium salt; and heat-treating the mixture.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein a fluorine or sulfur salt is further used in the co-precipitating step.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein a metal salt is further used in the mixing step.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the heating step is performed at 200 to 900°C for 1 to 20 hours.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the heating step is performed under an oxidation atmosphere.